

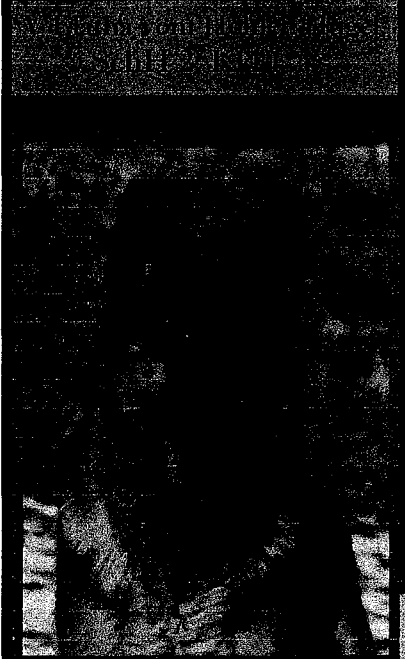
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Hollow Hills/vom hohlen Hügel Shepherds

Dr. & Mrs. K.C. Dorton
14028 Orchard Drive
Clarks Summit, PA 18411

Ms. Mary Bender
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408
February 5, 2007

RECEIVED
2007 FEB 20 PM 3:32
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVENUE COMMISSION



V-Zola vom Aspenhaus,
SchH1, Kkl 1 'a', Lbz

Dear Ms Bender:

As my letterhead would indicate, I'm a breeder of German Shepherds. As such I will be profoundly negatively affected by the proposed changes to the Pennsylvania Dog Law regulations as they are currently envisioned. I am writing today to express my strong opposition to their implementation.

I began competing in AKC obedience and conformation events in my twenties, and carefully developed a breeding program as I came to understand the characteristics of various bloodlines. I painstakingly researched before purchasing foundation stock, and through objective screening I sold any dog that produced genetic problems. I established a reputation for producing dogs that lived long, healthy lives with good hips, sound temperament, high intelligence. My dogs achieved national rankings in AKC obedience and conformation. Eventually my dogs established an international presence, and one was ranked 6th in the world in the German system.

Over the past two-plus decades I've transformed my eight-acre property into a haven for German Shepherds. I've invested tens of thousands of dollars in the construction of two kennel buildings, a spacious and secure kennel compound, and have recently completed several half- and full-acre grass paddocks for the dogs' safe exercise and training. I've attended seminars and workshops, trials and shows literally around the world in an effort to further my education and acquire the best animals for the benefit of my breeding program, in which I've easily invested well into six figures.

While I could go on, my point is that I believe I represent the type of breeder from whom the public would hope to obtain a puppy. However, the proposed regulations contain provisions that, while perhaps intended to eliminate the suffering of puppy mill dogs, would in fact force reputable breeders like me out of dogs. And the same impact would be felt by boarding kennel owners, rescue leagues, trainers, and myriad others.

As I understand the implications, my dogs would not be allowed to run in the paddocks I've created for them because they might get muddy or encounter a flea; if an animal control officer happened upon my premises after an exercise session in inclement weather, they could legally confiscate my five-figure dogs with the flick of a signature, and I would have little or no recourse. Upon seizure, my dogs (who are accustomed to routine seven-mile walks) would then be housed with these "animal-welfare" agencies in tiny kennel spaces with a mere twenty-minute leash walk. They would go insane from lack of mental and physical stimulation, and yet according to the regulations, that would be preferable over my spacious facilities. They could not run in their family groups while I throw the ball for them because males and females cannot be allowed together other than for breeding. Puppies could not be born and raised in my house, in fact my dogs could not even sleep beside my bed or curl on the couch but would have to remain in cement prisons!

I earnestly hope that these regulations will be tabled until the unintended consequences can be rectified.

Sincerely, Beth Dorton

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